

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НАУКИ И ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ

РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

**ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ БЮДЖЕТНОЕ ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ**

**«ДОНСКОЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ ТЕХНИЧЕСКИЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ»**

**(ДГТУ)**

Факультет «Прикладная лингвистика»

Кафедра «Мировые языки и культуры»

МЕТОДИЧЕСКИЕ УКАЗАНИЯ И КОНТРОЛЬНАЯ РАБОТА №5

по дисциплине:

**ПРАКТИЧЕСКИЙ КУРС ПЕРВОГО ИНОСТРАННОГО ЯЗЫКА**

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**ДЛЯ СТУДЕНТОВ ЗАОЧНОЙ ФОРМЫ ОБУЧЕНИЯ**

Направление 45.03.02 Лингвистика

Ростов-на-Дону

2023 г.

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Методические указания и контрольная работа по дисциплине «Практический курс первого иностранного языка», направление Лингвистика 45.03.02 для студентов заочной формы обучения.

Данные методические указания предназначены для

студентов-заочников третьего года обучения по дисциплине

««Практический курс первого иностранного языка»

Методические указания определяют основные направления самостоятельной работы студентов.

Методические указания содержат требования к экзамену, рекомендации по выбору варианта и оформлению контрольной работы.

**МЕТОДИЧЕСКИЕ УКАЗАНИЯ**

Внеаудиторная самостоятельная работа по дисциплине «Практический курс первого иностранного языка» включает:

1. Текущую работу над материалом учебной дисциплины (работу с учебником, газетными статьями для реферирования, выполнение домашних заданий, творческих работ, подготовку к практическим занятиям, тестам, контрольным работам).
2. Подготовку к семестровым и итоговым аттестационным испытаниям.
3. Индивидуальное чтение неадаптированной художественной литературы на изучаемом иностранном языке с целью расширения лексического запаса, подготовка основного содержания прочитанного с последующей беседой с преподавателем.
4. Методические рекомендации по самостоятельной работе:

* при выполнении заданий необходимо ориентироваться, прежде всего, на тот минимум, который был предъявлен на учебном занятии.
* при выполнении творческих работ необходимо основываться на опыте, полученном на учебном занятии, а также самостоятельно находить дополнительную информацию и использовать новые, интересные формы работы с материалом, формы его предъявления.

Завершающим этапом изучения дисциплины является промежуточная аттестация в виде экзамена. При этом студент должен показать все те знания, умения и навыки, которые он приобрел в процессе текущей работы по изучению дисциплины. Перечень примерных вопросов для промежуточной аттестации в форме экзамена студентов по курсу «Практический курс первого иностранного языка (предпрофессиональный уровень)»:

1. Чтение и перевод отрывка из аутентичного текста.

2. Интерпретация отрывка из текста.

3. Реферирование газетной статьи

4. Беседа по следующим темам:

- Something to shout about

- People power

- Growing concerns

- Our changing world

Дисциплина считается освоенной студентом, если он в полном объеме сформировал установленные компетенции и способен выполнять указанные в данной программе основные виды профессиональной деятельности. Освоение дисциплины должно позволить студенту осуществлять как аналитическую, так и научно-исследовательскую деятельность, что предполагает глубокое знание теории и практики данного курса.

**Как правильно определить свой вариант контрольной работы**

Для того чтобы правильно определить свой вариант контрольной работы, обратите внимание на последнюю цифру Вашей зачетной книжки:

цифры **1-3-5-7-9** соответствуют варианту **№1**

цифры **0-2-4-6-8** соответствуют варианту **№2**

**Порядок выполнения контрольных заданий**

1. Все контрольные задания, предусмотренные планом, следует выполнять в отдельной тетради. На титульном листе укажите факультет, курс, номер группы, фамилию, имя и отчество, дату, номер контрольного задания и варианта, используемые источники — учебники и учебные пособия.
2. Контрольные задания в печатном виде не принимаются. Задания следует выполнять четким почерком с соблюдением полей, оставленных для замечаний, комментариев и методических указаний преподавателя.
3. Строго соблюдайте последовательность выполнения заданий.
4. В конце работы поставьте свою личную подпись.
5. Контрольная работа, выполненная не полностью или не отвечающая предъявляемым к ней вышеперечисленным требованиям, возвращается без проверки и не засчитывается.
6. Полученная от преподавателя проверенная контрольная работа с замечаниями иметодическими указаниями должна быть доработана и исправлена.

**При подготовке к контрольной работе**

**рекомендуется использовать следующие учебники и учебные пособия:**

1. Upstream Advanced C1 Student's Book. Virginia Evans - Lynda Edwards. Published by Express Publishing.
2. Upstream Advanced C1 Work Book. Virginia Evans - Lynda Edwards. Published by Express Publishing.
3. Upstream Advanced C1Audio Course. Virginia Evans - Lynda Edwards. Published by Express Publishing.

**VARIANT I**

**PART 1**

**1.Fill in the missing words. Write only one word in each gap.**

1 Even though the bedrooms in our new flat are small the kitchen is \_\_\_\_ and comfortable.

2 Put your \_\_\_\_ clothes in the laundry basket.

3 Is there \_\_\_\_ heating in your house?

4 I’m not coming to the concert because I’m \_\_\_\_ of money.

5 They’ve rented a \_\_\_\_ furnished flat in the city centre.

6 Do you think this outfit is suitable \_\_\_\_ a wedding reception?

7 Why were you absent . \_\_\_\_ school yesterday?

8 Who does this jacket \_\_\_\_ to?

9 There’s a garage as . \_\_\_\_ as a cellar in their house.

10 Have you ever \_\_\_\_ to a football match?

11 It’s not that easy to set \_\_\_\_ your own business.

12 It’s a month \_\_\_\_ we last visited grandma.

13 How long ago \_\_\_\_ you join the yoga class?

14 I don’t believe you’re \_\_\_\_ waiting for the plumber to come!

15 He has been suffering \_\_\_\_ terrible headaches lately.

16 He accused me \_\_\_\_ being inconsiderate.

17 This house \_\_\_\_ back lots of memories for me.

18 Have we paid last month’s fuel \_\_\_\_?

19 If you turn right at the junction, you’ll find the library \_\_\_\_ the left.

20 Has Carlo finished cleaning his room \_\_\_\_ ?

**2.Circle the correct item.**

1 Kevin is probably the most \_\_\_\_ person I’ve ever met. He is always in such a good mood.

A aggressive B cheerful C anxious

2 Stop being so anxious and worried \_\_\_\_ everything.

A of B for C about

3 We usually take the children to the park \_\_\_\_ a week.

A twice B often C sometimes

4 She’s \_\_\_\_ sailed in a yacht.

A never B only C lately

5 This shirt \_\_\_\_ very soft. What’s it made of?

A is feeling B has felt C feels

6 Large country houses really \_\_\_\_ to me. I find them very practical.

A appeal B are appealing C have appealed

7 Neil \_\_\_\_ to the bank, but he won’t be long.

A has gone B has been C has been going

8 Go along Kensington Street and then \_\_\_\_ left at the stop sign.

A pass B cross C turn

9 The owners have decided to . \_\_\_\_ the old castle into a guesthouse.

A change B redecorate C convert

10 According to an eye witness, the fire broke \_\_\_\_ early in the morning.

A into B out C up

**3 Complete the second sentence using the word in bold. Use two to five words including the word given. Do not change the word given.**

1 He started working here one month ago.

(has) He \_\_\_\_\_ here for one month.

2 The band is releasing their first song next week.

(bringing) The band \_\_\_\_\_ their first song next week.

3 Is this your first visit to our city?

(ever) Have \_\_\_\_\_ our city before?

4 The hairdresser at the corner cuts my sister’s hair.

(has) My sister \_\_\_\_\_ the hairdresser at the corner.

5 A burglar stole some things from our house while we were at a concert.

(broke) Someone \_\_\_\_\_ and stole some things while we were at a concert.

**4 Fill in the correct word derived from the words in bold.**

1 The department store had a new Marks: \_\_\_\_\_ system installed. SECURE

2 \_\_\_\_\_ there have been a number of burglaries in our neighbourhood recently. FORTUNE

3 Never leave anything \_\_\_\_\_ in your car at night. VALUE

4 Our new air-conditioner cost £350 including the \_\_\_\_\_. INSTALL

5 Aspirin is usually very \_\_\_\_\_ for minor headaches. EFFECT

**5 Complete the exchanges.**

1 A: \_\_\_\_\_ the rent?

B: It’s £380 a month.

2 A: You look exhausted. \_\_\_\_\_?

B: Well, I’ve been working in the garden all morning.

3 A: \_\_\_\_\_ a microwave oven before?

B: No, I haven’t. Is it difficult?

4 A: Good morning sir. \_\_\_\_\_?

B: Yes, please. I’d like to enquire about the house for rent in Fulton.

5 A: Excuse me, \_\_\_\_\_ the library?

B: Of course. Go down Mill Street. The library is next to the cinema.

**PART 2**

**Task 1. Choose the most suitable word to fill each space.**

1. The company’s \_\_\_ was to increase productivity by employing more people.

A decision

B objective

C resolution

D desire

2. When I studied, we had no such subject as Business \_\_\_

A Morals

B Values

C Rights

D Ethics

3. After many deaths, the survivors longed for some medical \_\_\_

A breakthrough

B revolution

C novelty

D innovation

4. For the \_\_\_ of finding an affluent husband, hiring a matchmaker is a wise move.

A aim

B purpose

C object

D intention

5. If you didn’t get the job on the grounds of your social \_\_\_ you can resort to legal action.

A past

B history

C background

D being

6. Alice couldn’t project a (n) \_\_\_ image during the casting.

A upbeat

B optimistic

C positive

D cheerful

7. Mark can play computer games on \_\_\_ that he does all the work about the house.

A condition

B term

C rule

D decree

8. People used different things to tell the time as far \_\_\_ as the 9th century BC.

A behind

B back

C beyond

D before

9. Going to the pictures is a popular pastime among the \_\_\_ and the old alike.

A youth

B teenagers

C adolescents

D young

10. Peter couldn’t agree that Greg was really a valuable \_\_\_ to their football team.

A addition

B accumulation

C supplement

D appendage

**Task 2. Complete sentences with words formed from the words in capitals.**

1. Brenda’s friends always treat each other with \_\_\_ and respect. CIVIL

2. Fast food is thought to be \_\_\_ to health. DETRIMENT

3. Harry’s parents were very upset as he showed no \_\_\_ to study. DETERMINE

4. I’m happy Liam had the \_\_\_ to bring the presentation for the meeting; otherwise our boss would have been furious. SIGHT

5. Lucy was the youngest daughter of a very \_\_\_ Australian family. PROSPER

**Task 3. Underline the correct word.**

1. Diners’ praise greatly boosted/pushed/shaped/fostered chef’s confidence.

2. Fred was thinking of preparing for the exam, but on stronger/second/better/deeper thoughts, he decided to go to the party.

3. Henry’s face was glistening/glaring/beaming/flashing when he heard Mary’s «I do’.

4. His clever son was a fluff/nest/feather/badge in his cap.

5. I can’t understand why Bob constantly rubs Fiona up the wrong side/way/end/time.

**Task 4. Fill in the gaps with ONE word.**

1. Both companies have benefited …… the meeting.

2. Dan’s dream has come true — he has the world …… his feet.

3. Fred isn’t a good student; he always keeps his head …… the clouds.

4. Her family never keeps …… with the Joneses.

5. I know Chris has done it …… purpose.

**PART 3** CULTURAL BEHAVIOUR IN BUSINESS

Read a blog post about doing business in different cultures to practise and improve your reading skills. Before reading do the preparation task first. Then read the text and do the exercises.

**Preparation task**

|  |
| --- |
| Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).  **VOCABULARY**  1. …… stark  2. …… to be conceived as  3. …… to break the ice  4. …… nuances  5. …… to stand someone in good stead  6. …… pompous  7. …… to pigeonhole someone  8. …… mundane  **DEFINITIONS**  a. subtle differences in meaning b. to be useful to someone in the future c. arrogant and self-important d. extreme and obvious, often used with ‘difference’ or ‘contrast’ e. to be thought of as f. boring, uninteresting or ordinary g. to do something that helps relieve the tension and get conversation going, especially between people meeting for the first time h. to label someone and put them in a restrictive category |

Reading text: **Cultural behaviour in business**

Much of today’s business is conducted across international borders, and while the majority of the global business community might share the use of English as a common language, the nuances and expectations of business communication might differ greatly from culture to culture. A lack of understanding of the cultural norms and practices of our business acquaintances can result in unfair judgements, misunderstandings and breakdowns in communication. Here are three basic areas of differences in the business etiquette around the world that could help stand you in good stead when you next find yourself working with someone from a different culture.

ADDRESSING SOMEONE

When discussing this topic in a training course, a German trainee and a British trainee got into a hot debate about whether it was appropriate for someone with a doctorate to use the corresponding title on their business card. The British trainee maintained that anyone who wasn’t a medical doctor expecting to be addressed as ‘Dr’ was disgustingly pompous and full of themselves. The German trainee, however, argued that the hard work and years of education put into earning that PhD should give them full rights to expect to be addressed as ‘Dr’.

This stark difference in opinion over something that could be conceived as minor and thus easily overlooked goes to show that we often attach meaning to even the most mundane practices. When things that we are used to are done differently, it could spark the strongest reactions in us. While many Continental Europeans and Latin Americans prefer to be addressed with a title, for example Mr or Ms and their surname when meeting someone in a business context for the first time, Americans, and increasingly the British, now tend to prefer using their first names. The best thing to do is to listen and observe how your conversation partner addresses you and, if you are still unsure, do not be afraid to ask them how they would like to be addressed.

SMILING

A famous Russian proverb states that ‘a smile without reason is a sign of idiocy’ and a so-called ‘smile of respect’ is seen as insincere and often regarded with suspicion in Russia. Yet in countries like the United States, Australia and Britain, smiling is often interpreted as a sign of openness, friendship and respect, and is frequently used to break the ice. In a piece of research done on smiles across cultures, the researchers found that smiling individuals were considered more intelligent than non-smiling people in countries such as Germany, Switzerland, China and Malaysia. However, in countries like Russia, Japan, South Korea and Iran, pictures of smiling faces were rated as less intelligent than the non-smiling ones. Meanwhile, in countries like India, Argentina and the Maldives, smiling was associated with dishonesty.

EYE CONTACT

An American or British person might be looking their client in the eye to show that they are paying full attention to what is being said, but if that client is from Japan or Korea, they might find the direct eye contact awkward or even disrespectful. In parts of South America and Africa, prolonged eye contact could also be seen as challenging authority. In the Middle East, eye contact across genders is considered inappropriate, although eye contact within a gender could signify honesty and truthfulness.

Having an increased awareness of the possible differences in expectations and behaviour can help us avoid cases of miscommunication, but it is vital that we also remember that cultural stereotypes can be detrimental to building good business relationships. Although national cultures could play a part in shaping the way we behave and think, we are also largely influenced by the region we come from, the communities we associate with, our age and gender, our corporate culture and our individual experiences of the world. The knowledge of the potential differences should therefore be something we keep at the back of our minds, rather than something that we use to pigeonhole the individuals of an entire nation.

**Task 1**

**Circle the correct answer.**

1. The British trainee felt that people who want to be addressed as ‘Dr’ must be …

a. hard-working.

b. conceited and self-important.

c. doing a medical degree.

d. from Germany.

2. If you are not sure how to address someone, you should …

a. use the title you see on their business card.

b. make your decision based on cultural stereotypes about their country.

c. address them the way you’d like to be addressed.

d. ask them what they would like you to call them.

3. There might be a misunderstanding if an American smiles at a Russian business associate because the Russian might think that the American is …

a. being fake.

b. challenging their authority.

c. trying to break the ice.

d. disrespectful.

4. The Japanese, South Koreans and Iranians might interpret a smiling face as being …

a. friendlier.

b. less open.

c. not as intelligent.

d. dishonest.

5. Americans and British people sometimes use eye contact to show that they …

a. like the speaker.

b. are really listening to what is being said.

c. are honest and truthful.

d. are attending to every need of the speaker.

6. The last paragraph warns the reader not to …

a. engage in international business.

b. let national cultures shape the way we behave and think.

c. let miscommunication damage our business relationships.

d. overgeneralise using our knowledge of cultural stereotypes.

**Task 2**

**Are the sentences true or false?**

1. When doing business internationally, there is a possibility that we might misinterpret what each other is saying even though we are speaking the same language.

2. To the German trainee, having a PhD is equivalent to being a medical doctor.

3. Sometimes, the smallest things can trigger a huge emotional response in us, especially when they are things we are not used to.

4. In the research done to the perceptions of smiles, people from different countries were asked to rate photos of smiling faces and non-smiling faces.

5. Making eye contact can be interpreted in different ways in different cultures but is almost always a positive thing.

6. The writer recommends keeping possible cultural differences in the forefront of our minds when doing business with people with different cultures.

**VARIANT II**

**PART 1**

**1.Fill in the missing words. Write only one word in each gap.**

1 Don’t forget to pack an \_\_\_\_ repellent for the mosquitos.

2 It was freezing \_\_\_\_ yesterday.

3 Their cottage \_\_\_\_ back to the 17th century.

4 I wonder \_\_\_\_ Karen will be at the ceremony tomorrow.

5 This time next week, they \_\_\_\_ be skiing in the Alps.

6 She will \_\_\_\_ finished the painting by Monday.

7 Anne has lost her \_\_\_\_ . She can’t travel abroad until she gets it replaced.

8 The snow-capped \_\_\_\_ in the Rockies are breathtaking.

9 Andy loves luxury. He enjoys the finer \_\_\_\_ in life.

10 The hotel is \_\_\_\_ in one of the loveliest parts of Barbados.

11 There is a wide \_\_\_\_ of things to do at this sports club.

12 The party is going to be \_\_\_\_ in the Nortons’ backyard.

13 Be careful in \_\_\_\_ areas because there might be pickpockets about.

14 I would love to go to the beach today. It’s \_\_\_\_ hot. It feels like it’s 100º C.

15 They have just arrived at the campsite and are \_\_\_\_ up their tents.

16 It’s cold and wet in Madrid with a \_\_\_\_ of 10º C.

17 We couldn’t go any further because the car had \_\_\_\_ out of gas.

18 On the 1st of May people pick flowers and make wreaths to \_\_\_ the beginning of spring.

19 Take your keys in \_\_\_\_ you come back late.

20 If you’re off work tomorrow \_\_\_\_ advantage of the good weather and spend the day at the beach.

**2. Circle the correct item.**

1 It was a good deal because breakfast was \_\_\_\_ in the price.

A included B self-contained C booked

2 There is \_\_\_\_ to do and see here.

A many B plenty C too much

3 I’m \_\_\_\_ about the times the buses leave.

A familiar B sure C known

4 The area has got many \_\_\_\_ beaches.

A unspoilt B narrow C rocky

5 There was a power \_\_\_\_ last night.

A trouble B break C cut

6 The cloudy skies will have cleared \_\_\_\_ this afternoon.

A by B since C after

7 There was an \_\_\_\_ list of people for the hiking trip.

A extended B extensive C exaggerated

8 Do \_\_\_\_ your coat before going out. It’s very cold.

A on B up with C up

9 Leave a phone number so that we can get in \_\_\_\_with you in an emergency.

A open B touch C view

10 Do you know when he \_\_\_\_ back?

A will be B has been C is

**3. Complete the second sentence using the word in bold. Use two to five words including the word given. Do not change the word given.**

1 If he doesn’t get into university, he will get a job.

(unless) He will get a job \_\_\_ into university.

2 Take your ID because they might ask you for it.

(case) Take your ID \_\_\_ you for it.

3 I’ll write to you the moment I settle into my new house.

(soon) I’ll write to you \_\_\_into my new house.

4 You shouldn’t eat so many sweets.

(cut) You should try to \_\_\_ sweets.

5 I’d really like to have a snack right now.

(do) I could \_\_\_ a snack right now

**4 Fill in the correct word derived from the words in bold.**

1 The city council has voted to \_\_\_\_\_ the old hotel in the city centre. STORE

2 One way to visit foreign countries and save money is by booking a \_\_\_\_\_ holiday. PACK

3 After finishing university, she spent a year travelling \_\_\_\_\_ throughout Europe. EXTEND

4 We bought some traditional \_\_\_\_\_ souvenirs before leaving the island. HAND

5 My last holiday was \_\_\_\_\_ and I will certainly revisit that place soon. FORGET

**5. Complete the exchanges.**

1 A: Is Mary coming with us?

B: I don’t . \_\_\_\_\_.

2 A: . \_\_\_\_\_ going to cost?

B: Including the insurance, it will cost í180.

3 A: Hi Sally!

B: Hi Bob. I \_\_\_\_\_ you for ages.

4 A: There’s a good film on at the Filmhouse tonight at

10:30 pm. Would you like to go?

B: I’d \_\_\_\_\_ I’m afraid I can’t.

I feel so tired that I think I’ll have an early night.

5 A: \_\_\_\_\_ your passport, please?

B: Of course. Here you are.

**PART 2**

**Task 1. Choose the most suitable word to fill each space.**

1. Jill had the necessary competitive \_\_\_ in order to be first past the post.

A mind

B soul

C spirit

D thought

2. If the restaurant is not situated \_\_\_ beside the river, I won’t go there.

A exact

B direct

C precise

D right

3. Filing was a tedious task that \_\_\_ almost 50% of Linda’s time at work.

A covered

B occupied

C received

D completed

4. He thinks he’s fat just because there’s a wide \_\_\_ of fast food to choose from.

A degree

B variance

C scale

D range

5. \_\_\_ relatives usually don’t visit us at all.

A Faraway

B Remote

C Distant

D Slight

6. That pop star is known for his toughness and \_\_\_ in treating his assistants.

A ruthlessness

B cruelty

C kindness

D manipulation

7. Claire was lucky to \_\_\_ such a wonderful career opportunity.

A clutch

B follow

C pull

D seize

8. Kate never cooks, she \_\_\_ her boyfriend to do it for her.

A makes

B gets

C lets

D puts

9. If the boss is not able to attend a meeting, he uses his right to \_\_\_

A allot

B entrust

C assign

D delegate

10. Henry likes his old cell phone and really thinks it’s in excellent \_\_\_

A state

B condition

C form

D shape

**Task 2. Complete sentences with words formed from the words in capitals.**

1. Nile is living happily in \_\_\_ with his pension. RETIRE

2. Paul was determined to become a designer and his \_\_\_ paid off. PERSIST

3. Rose was too busy at work and missed Jill’s \_\_\_ WARM

4. The audience didn’t like the scenario and was also very \_\_\_ by the actors’ play. IMPRESS

5. The epidemic of cholera was spreading at an \_\_\_ rate. ALARM

**Task 3. Underline the correct word.**

1. I want to follow Columbus’s travel/voyage/trip/crossing to the West Indies.

2. I’m so irritated as Jill takes/robs/grabs/steals the show at every party.

3. The lifting effect wears off/through/down/in in two days.

4. The performance made/passed/sent/offered such a good impression on the audience that the actors were given a 30-minute standing ovation.

5. Though the US and the UAE had agreed on a truce, the former carried through/in/over/on hostile acts.

**Task 4. Fill in the gaps with ONE word.**

1. Jack was found guilty \_\_\_ robbery.

2. Lena aced her finals; she’s \_\_\_ seventh heaven.

3. Mother can’t give me pocket money as we’re \_\_\_ a strict budget.

4. The offender compensated me \_\_\_ the property damage.

5. They complimented Mike \_\_\_ his generosity.

PART 3 SUSTAINABLESUPERMARKETS

Read an article about how some supermarkets have become more environmentally friendly to practise and improve your reading skills. Before reading do the preparation task first. Then read the text and do the exercises.

**Preparation task**

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

VOCABULARY

1. …… a backlash

2. …… a pact

3. …… to come under fire

4. …… an unethical act

5. …… to take matters into your own hands

6. …… the lion’s share

7. …… surplus

8. …… to operate under a veil of secrecy

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DEFINITIONS**  a. to be criticised strongly  b. an action that is morally wrong  c. a strong negative reaction by a large number of people  d. a formal agreement between parties  e. excess; extra; oversupply  f. to work in a way that hides embarrassing information  g. to deal with a problem yourself after others have failed to do so  h. the largest part of something  **Reading text:**  SUSTAINABLE SUPERMARKETS  Many of the major supermarket chains have come under fire with accusations of various unethical acts over the past decade. They’ve wasted tonnes of food, they’ve underpaid their suppliers and they’ve contributed to excessive plastic waste in their packaging, which has had its impact on our environment.  But supermarkets and grocers are starting to sit up and take notice. In response to growing consumer backlash against the huge amounts of plastic waste generated by plastic packaging, some of the largest UK supermarkets have signed up to a pact promising to transform packaging and cut plastic wastage. In a pledge to reuse, recycle or compost all plastic wastage by 2025, supermarkets are now beginning to take some responsibility for the part they play in contributing to the damage to our environment, with one major supermarket announcing their plan to eliminate all plastic packaging in their own-brand products by 2023.  In response to criticisms over food waste, some supermarkets are donating some of their food surplus. However, charities estimate that they are only accessing two per cent of supermarkets’ total food surplus, so this hardly seems to be solving the problem. Some say that supermarkets are simply not doing enough. Most supermarkets operate under a veil of secrecy when asked for exact figures of food wastage, and without more transparency it is hard to come up with a systematic approach to avoiding waste and to redistributing surplus food.  Some smaller companies are now taking matters into their own hands and offering consumers a greener, more environmentally friendly option. Shops like Berlin’s Original Unverpakt and London’s Bulk Market are plastic-free shops that have opened in recent years, encouraging customers to use their own containers or compostable bags. Online grocer Farmdrop eliminates the need for large warehouses and the risk of huge food surplus by delivering fresh produce from local farmers to its customers on a daily basis via electric cars, offering farmers the lion’s share of the retail price.  There is no doubt that we still have a long way to go in reducing food waste and plastic waste. But perhaps the major supermarkets might take inspiration from these smaller grocers and gradually move towards a more sustainable future for us all.  **Task 1**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Are the sentences true or false? | | | 1. More and more people want supermarkets to reduce the amount of plastic waste they produce. 2. By 2025, many of the major supermarkets will have stopped using plastic in their in-house products. 3. Supermarkets are still denying that plastic packaging can cause damage to our environment. 4. Supermarkets are not telling people how much food they are actually wasting. 5. There is a grocer in Berlin that doesn’t allow customers to use their own containers. 6. Farmdrop doesn’t store large amounts of food and so doesn’t produce unnecessary waste. 7. Farmers supplying food to Farmdrop get a small fraction of the price that customers pay. 8. The author believes that small shops like Bulk Market and Farmdrop will eventually take over the major supermarkets.   **Task 2**  Complete the text with words from the box.   |  | | --- | | transparent reduce promised produce criticised rid excess packaging |   Two of the things that major supermarkets have been (1)……………………………… for are the waste of large amounts of (2)……………………………… food and unnecessary plastic usage in a lot of product (3)……………………………… . Some supermarkets have (4)……………………………… to try and (5)……………………………… plastic wastage, and one supermarket has said that it would get (6)……………………………… of all plastic packaging from its own in-house brands. Meanwhile, many supermarkets are not very (7)……………………………… about the exact amount of food that is going to waste and so it’s hard for charities to know how to redistribute this surplus (8)……………………… . | |